

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0028] on page 8 in the specification as follows.

Fig. 3 depicts a simplified flow chart of a method followed by the processor 18 to monitor shortages in accordance with the present invention. From start state 300, in step 310 the processor 18 receive delivery information from the third party logistics provider 30, as provided for in step 226 of Fig. 2. The processor 18 monitors for shortages in step 312. This is done by monitoring the difference (delta) between the order quantity and the pack/deliver quantity. If there are shortages, as determined in decision step 314, shortage notices are sent to the planners at the manufacturer 10, in step 316. Planners at the manufacturer 10 receive these shortage notices and can take appropriate action accordingly. The shortage information may be refreshed periodically, such as every 10 seconds, for example. If no shortages are detected, then the process returns to the start state 300.